

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01

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INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT JA

SUBJECT: DIET PASSES JNR AND HEALTH INSURANCE BILLS

SUMMARY: ON SEPTEMBER 18 DIET APPROVED BILLS TO INCREASE JNR
FARES AND TO RAISE HEALTH INSURANCE AND PENSION BENEFITS.

1. ON SEPTEMBER 18, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES GAVE FINAL
APPROVAL TO THREE GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED BILLS, INCLUDING TWO OF
FOUR SO-CALLED KEY BILLS, WHICH HAD BEEN TIED UP IN UPPER HOUSE
SINCE RE-EXTENDED DIET SESSION BEGAN JULY 24. AMENDED BILLS TO
(1) RAISE JNR FARES AND FREIGHT CHARGES, (2) INCREASE HEALTH
INSURANCE COVERAGE AND (3) IMPROVE PENSION BENEFITS HAD BEEN
RESUBMITTED TO LOWER HOUSE AFTER UPPER HOUSE PASSAGE PREVIOUS
DAY.

2. WAY CLEARED FOR PASSAGE OF THREE BILLS BY LDP-
OPPOSITION COMPROMISE WORKED OUT LATE LAST WEEK. OPPOSITION
PARTIES AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN VOTING ON CONDITIONS THAT
JNR FARE HIKE BE DELAYED UNTIL END OF MARCH, INSTEAD OF GOING
INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY, THAT HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS
BE SLIGHTLY REDUCED AND PENSION BENEFITS BE RAIDED.

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3. WITH ENACTMENT OF THESE BILLS, DIET ATTENTION IS NOW

FOCUSED ON REMAINING TWO IMPORTANT PIECES OF LEGISLATION --
TWIN DEFENSE BILLS AND TSUKUBA UNIVERSITY BILL. BOTH ARE STILL
IN UPPER HOUSE COMMITTEES FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER TERMS
OF AGREEMENT WHICH LED TO RESUMPTION OF DIET PROCEEDINGS
IN MID-AUGUST.

4. COMMENT: OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE PLEDGED STEADFAST
RESISTANCE TO REMAINING BILLS AND THEIR RESOLVE ON DEFENSE
BILLS HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED BY NAGANUMA COURT DECISION. ONLY
AVENUE APPARENTLY LEFT TO LDP, ESPECIALLY FOR DEFENSE BILL, IS
UNILATERAL FORCED PASSAGE BEFORE SESSION ENDS SEPTEMBER 27.
ALTHOUGH SUCH ACTION WOULD, OF COURSE, CREATE DIET UPROAR AND
DRAW CENSURE FROM MEDIA AS VIOLATION OF PUBLIC PLEDGES TO AVOID
UNILATERAL ACTION, POSSIBILITY LDP WILL TRY TO GO IT ALONE CANNOT
BE RULED OUT.
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